

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CU-05 IO-14 DRC-01 OMB-01 /113 W

----- 062850

P R 010752Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1741

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 8685

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: UNITY MARKS ARMY DAY: YANG CHENG-WU REHABILITATED

SUMMARY. ARMY DAY IN PEKING PRODUCED A BIG SHOW OF LEADERSHIP  
UNITY WITH A TURNOUT LED BY CHOU EN-LAI. THE SENSATION ON THE  
OCCASION WAS THE REHABILITATION OF FORMER ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF  
YANG CHENG-WU AND FORMER AIR FORCE POLI KCAL COMMISSAR YU LI-CHIN  
END SUMMARY.

1. ARMY DAY IN PEKING PRODUCTED AN OUTWARD SHOW OF UNITY IN THE  
LARGEST LEADERSHIP TURNOUT IN THREE MONTHS. WITH THE INTERNAL  
POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN SOME CONFUSION AS A RESULT OF CONCERN FOR  
DECLINING INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE ACTIVE,  
PEKING-BASED MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLITBURO WAS ON HAND FOR THE  
CUSTOMARY JULY 31 EVENING RECEPTION, LED BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI.  
IT WAS THE AILING-CONVALESCING CHOU'S FIRST SUCH PIUBLIC  
APPEARANCE IN ALMOST TWO MONTHS, AND THIS SEEMED TO  
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UNDERScore THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO A SHOW OF UNITY AT THIS TIME.

2. BUT THE SENSATION OF THE GATHERING WAS THE REHABILITATION OF FORMER ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF YANG CHENG-WU AND FORMER AIR FORCE POLITICAL COMMISSAR YU LI-CHIN. BOTH HAD BEEN OUT OF PUBLIC SIGHT FOR OVER SIX YEARS FOLLOWING THEIR DISGRACE IN THE MANIC PHASE OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. THERE HAD BEEN NO FOREWARNING THAT THEIR CASES WERE BEING RECONSIDERED. YANG IN PARTICULAR HAD BEEN PORTRAYED AS A MAJOR VILLAIN, ACCUSED AMONG OTHER THINGS OF PERSECUTING CHIANG CHING, MISREPRESENTING MAO'S AUTHORITY IN A WIDELY DISPUTED 1967 RED FLAG ARTICLE, CRUSHING THE RED GUARDS, AND TRYING TO REMOVE CERTAIN KEY MILITARY COMMANDERS. CHOU EN-LAI REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED YANG'S PURGE AT A RALLY IN THE SPRING OF 1968. NCNA LISTED YANG AMONG THOSE "ALSO PRESENT", INDICATING THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE CURRENT DUTIES.

3. LIKE LAST YEAR THERE WAS NO EDITORIAL FOR THE OCCASION, AND NOTHING WE HAVE SEEN INDICATES ANY CHANGE IN THE MILITARY'S CURRENTLY LOW POLITICAL PROFILE.

4. OTHER INTERESTING REAPPEARANCES ON ARMY DAY, AND THE PROVINCIAL TURNOUT WHEN AVAILABLE, WILL BE SEPARATELY REPORTED. CROSS

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